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'Business as Usual' for Police After Burying Three Comrades

The New Orleans Police Department was back to its unpredictable business of watching over citizens today after pausing for the past two days to bury three of its own, all slain by sniper fire Sunday in the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge.

The investigation into the bizarre, harrowing incident, which left seven dead and 21 injured, was to pick up full steam again today after a "man of ordinary manner but heroic achievements," Deputy Police Supt. Louis J. Sirgo, 48, and fellow officers, Ptn. Philip J. Coleman, 26, were laid to rest yesterday.

Ptn. Paul Persigo, 33, was buried Tuesday.

Fellow officers turned out in force yesterday and fought a near-freezing rain to bid farewell to their friends.

Members of police departments from throughout the nation flew in for Sirgo's rites. They included representatives from Ls Angeles New York, Detroit, Mobile, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Washington, Philadelphia and Jersey City, plus numerous Louisiana lawmen.

Police said more than 1,000 persons turned out for the Sirgo ceremonies. They included Mayor Moon Landrieu and Lt. Gov. James E. Fitzmorris.

Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso and Chief Louis Turner read Biblical passages at the Sirgo rites.

Archbishop Philip M. Hannan and Father Peter Rogers, police and fire chaplain, officiated at both of yesterday's services — at Sirgo's at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 6300 Pines Blvd., and at Coleman's at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 411 N. Rampart St.

Mrs. Sirgo wept as the archbishop called her husband "a man of limitless generosity." Hannan said Sirgo's life and attitude "of concern for all, for those of every race and creed, are a treasured legacy for this city."

Mrs. Sirgo again wept and clutched her 15-year-old daughter, Lisa Joyce, as final prayers for her husband were said at graveside in Greenwood Cemetery.

A few hours later, and only a short distance from Sirgo's final resting place, relatives of Coleman said goodbye as the rain continued to pelt down throughout the gloomy day.

Coleman's father, Joseph L. Coleman, stepped up to the shiny gray casket, placed his hand on it and said, "Goodbye, Phil." He stepped back, bent forward and wept, "Oh God, Phil."

Funeral services for one of the three civilians slain in the tragedy, Frank E. Schneider, were also held in New Orleans yesterday.

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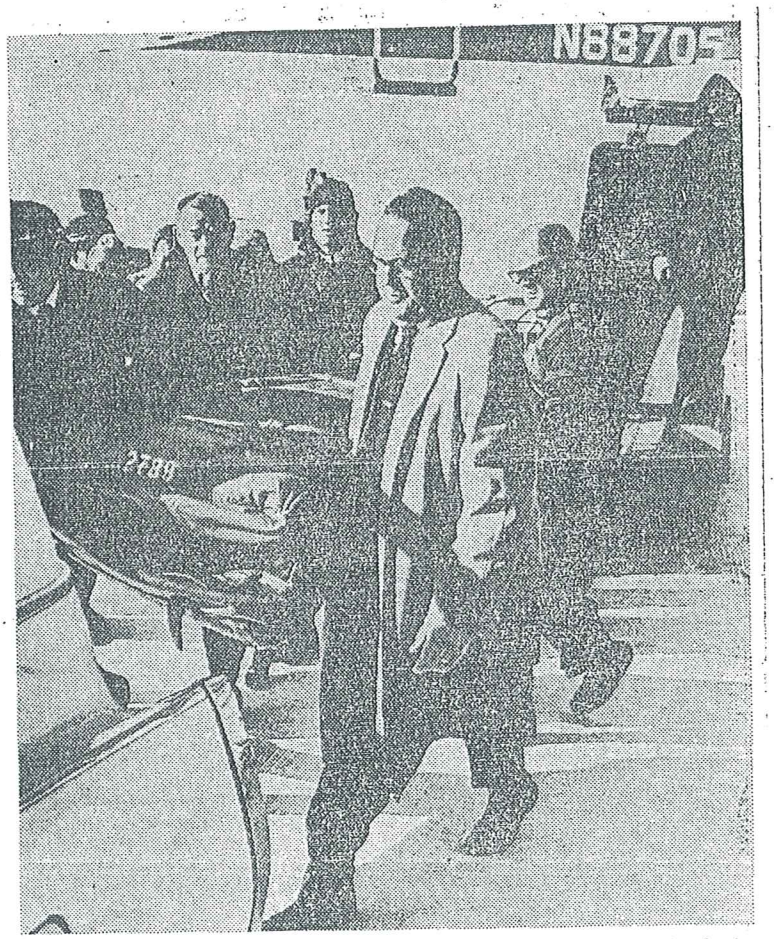
States-Item photo.

Officers give final salute to slain leader Louis Sirgo

States-Item photo.

Police Chaplain blesses casket of Ptn. Philip J. Coleman



Slain sniper

Airport officials and ambulance driver transfer the body of slain sniper Mark Essex from plane to ambulance at Wichita for burial in Emporia, Kan. (AP Wirephoto.)

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